NOVENA

25¢

IN HONOR OF
ST. ANTHONY

DEVOTION

TO

SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

FOR

PRIVATE OR PUBLIC USE

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HOW TO MAKE THE NOVENA TO ST. ANTHONY

1. Visit the shrine of St. Anthony for nine consecutive Tuesdays in a Franciscan church, or in your parish church, or even in your own home, and there pray with confidence for your intentions. Read the prayers in this booklet.
2. If, however, you wish to gain the indulgences connected with the devotion, be sure to carry out the conditions exactly as described above on page 10. Above all:
3. Go to confession and Communion as prescribed. For the devotion is meant to bring Jesus as close to you and you as close to Jesus as was the case with St. Anthony.
4. Try to imitate the virtues of St. Anthony especially his purity, humilty, and charity. Read the meditations beginning page 17 in this booklet.
5. Do not forget to be grateful for the grace to make the novena. Say the indulgenced prayer of gratitude in this booklet (page 32).
6. A common practice at the novena is to give or promise an alms as St. Anthony's Bread for the poor.

I. LIFE OF SAINT ANTHONY

"WHERE are you from?" asked Pope Leo XIII, who as a tertiary belonged to the Franciscan family, addressing Don Antonio Locatelli. "From Padua, Your Holiness." "And do you love your saint?" "Love him, Holy Father? Indeed yes! I was born and bred within the sight of his tomb and I bear his name." "My son," said the Pontiff, "it is not enough that you love him, but you must make him loved, for Saint Anthony is the saint not of Padua only, but of the whole world."

Truly, Saint Anthony is the saint of the whole world. Everywhere churches arise in his honor and shrines invite his trustful friends. There is scarcely a church or chapel that does not harbor an image of the saint, and few Catholic homes are without a picture of the wonder-worker. The people love Saint Anthony, for he seems to have unlimited access to the treasures of God's graces and blessings. He reclaims lost sums of money, as well as the lost graces of God. He heals the wounds of the body, as well as the festering sores of sin in the soul. He advances the temporal and, still more, the eternal interests of his devout clients.

Saint Anthony was born in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1195. The room in which he was born is now a tiny chapel beneath the Church of St. Anthony in Lisbon, near the cathedral. It was in the cathedral that he was baptized and received the name of Fernando. He grew up a lily of innocence and an angel

of piety. At the age of fifteen he consecrated himself to the religious life in the convent of the Canons Regular of Saint Augustine at Lisbon. A year or two later he was sent to the Holy Cross monastery at Coimbra, where he made giant strides in the ways of science and sanctity.

It was here he received his vocation to the Franciscan order. The remains of the first five Franciscan martyrs of Morocco were brought to Coimbra for interment. Inflamed with the desire for a similar martyrdom, Fernando obtained leave to join the Franciscan order. At his reception, he was given the name of Anthony. This was in July of the year 1220. He was then twenty-five years of age. At his request he was sent to Morocco in November of that same year, hoping to share in the honors of martyrdom. But that was not his destiny. Afflicted with serious illness, he was forced to return home. But a fierce storm drove his ship from its course, so that it came ashore on the coast of Sicily. Thus God led him to the land which he was to glorify by his holy and miraculous life.

In Italy Anthony's great learning and holiness were unknown at first. He lived the retired life of a lay brother until 1222. Divine Providence then made him celebrated. For nearly ten years he gave himself up to the sacred ministry without rest or relaxation, traversing Italy and France, wherever obedience called him. He preached with untiring zeal and with a heart steeled against sin, but full of tenderness for the repentant sinner. Saint Anthony was an orator of great power, and such a successful opponent of the then prevailing heresies that people called him the Hammer of Heretics.

He distinguished himself above all for his preaching and work in defense of the needy and oppressed. In 1228 he was sent to Padua, where he spent the last few years of his blessed life. With this city his name has been associated for over seven centuries.

He died on Friday, June 13, 1231, in his thirty-sixth year, in the hospice adjoining the convent of the Poor Clares of Arcella, outside the city gates of Padua. The Friars kept the news of his death from the people, but the little children ran through the streets of the city crying out aloud: "The Saint is dead, Saint Anthony is dead."

Countless are the miracles by which God glorified his faithful servant especially after his holy death. So stupendous and numerous were the miracles occurring through the intercession of Saint Anthony, that in less than a year after his death he was canonized by Pope Gregory IX. From the miracles performed during the year following his death not less than fifty were introduced in the acts of his canonization.

St. Bonaventure says, "Saint Anthony possessed the science of the angels, the faith of the patriarchs, the fore-knowledge of the prophets, the zeal of the apostles, the heroism of martyrs." The Dominican Saint Antonine, archbishop of Florence, declared "he was a vessel of election, an eagle in knowledge, a wonder-worker beyond compare."

In the year 1263, the tomb of the saint was opened, in order that his blessed remains might be transferred to the new sanctuary built in his honor. On opening the coffin it was found that the

flesh had fallen into dust, but the tongue had remained fresh and ruddy like that of a living person. St. Bonaventure, then minister general of the order, was present. When he saw this miracle, he reverently took the tongue in his hands, kissed it and exclaimed: "O blessed tongue, that never ceased to praise God and always taught others to bless him, now we plainly see how precious you are in his sight."

St. Bonaventure declares that all favors can be obtained through the intercession of Saint Anthony. With regard to temporal benefits, however, we should always pray with the condition that they be in accordance with the will of God and the welfare of our soul. For God will not hear our prayers for temporal gifts when such gifts would imperil the only real blessing, the salvation of our immortal soul. But these prayers are never lost, for God then grants us higher and greater graces than those he is pleased to withhold. It is of the greatest importance that we pray with a lively faith, a firm hope and, above all, with a heart detached from mortal sin. Then we may accept all graces and blessings through him who during his earthly life thought only of comforting the unhappy and afflicted.

In 1946 Pope Pius XII declared St. Anthony a Doctor of the Church. On this occasion he styled him "a man not unlike a brilliant star; for, not only by the holiness of his life and the fame of his miracles, but also by the radiant splendor of heavenly doctrine, he has illumined the whole world and even now sheds upon it a brilliant light."

II. DEVOTIONS TO ST. ANTHONY

1. The Tuesdays

SAINT Anthony died on Friday, June 13, 1231. He was buried on the following Tuesday, June 17. No miracle had occurred during the interval, but on that Tuesday his funeral procession was changed into a continuous triumphal ovation on account of the number and greatness of the miracles occurring. The blind saw, the deaf heard, the dumb spoke and the lame walked again. On that day no one invoked the aid of the saint without obtaining relief. From then on the gratitude of the people consecrated Tuesday to the honor of the saint. Crowds gathered at his tomb on that day by preference, and it was and still is the general belief in Padua that one can obtain on this day whatever is asked of God through Saint Anthony.

This practice, which had spread far and wide, received a new impetus centuries afterwards. A noble lady in Bologna, in 1617, besought a favor of Saint Anthony with much fervor. For twenty-two years she had vainly desired that her marriage might be blessed with offspring. One night she saw the saint in a dream. He said to her: "Visit my shrine in the church of the Franciscans for nine Tuesdays, and your prayers will be heard." The pious woman gladly obeyed the direction of the saint, and obtained the favor she so ardently desired.

This happy response to prayer was soon noised abroad, and the devotion of the nine Tuesdays began to be practiced by countless souls. The fervor of the faithful, however, was not satisfied with devoting only nine Tuesdays in honor of Saint

Anthony, but gradually the number of Tuesdays was increased to thirteen, in remembrance of the date of his blessed death, or rather the date of his birth into eternal glory, which was June 13, 1231.

The following indulgences are granted for observing the Tuesdays in honor of St. Anthony:

1. On any Tuesday of the year a plenary indulgence can be gained by *visiting the Blessed Sacrament exposed in a Franciscan church* and there praying at least an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory for the intentions of the pope. Confession and Communion are required too (Leo XIII, July 3, 1894).
2. A plenary indulgence can be gained *in any church* on any Tuesday or Sunday of the year if one performs some devotion there in honor of St. Anthony with the sincere intention of continuing the devotion for thirteen Tuesdays or Sundays. Conditions each time: Confession, Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the pope (*Preces et Pia Opera,* 3rd edn., no. 530 b).

2. St. Anthony's Bread for the Poor

A pious young woman of Toulon, Louise Bouffier, came to her little store one morning in March, 1890. On her arrival she found, after repeated efforts, that the door of her shop could not be opened. The safety lock seemed broken and she called a locksmith. He tried all his keys and then gave up in despair, saying that nothing remained to do but force the door. The pious young woman immediately thought of Saint Anthony and prayed fervently to him, promising that if her door should be opened without breaking the lock, she would distribute a certain number of loaves to the poor

in his honor. She then begged the locksmith to make another attempt. He tried a key at random, and the door immediately flew open.

"From that day," as she herself tells us, "all my friends pray with me to the good saint, and all our troubles are commended to him with a promise of bread for his poor. We are astonished at the graces thus received. One of my most intimate friends promised a certain amount of bread every day of her life, if a member of her family would be cured of a fault that had caused her great grief for twenty-three years, and the prayer has been granted. In thanksgiving she bought a little statue of Saint Anthony and we have put it up in a corner where we require a big lamp to see it, and now my bake shop is filled all day with people in fervent prayer, some asking for cures in sickness, others for success in their undertakings, others for employment, others again for the conversion of some dying friend or relative, and all these petitions are accompanied by promises of alms for the poor if they be granted."

This is the origin of St. Anthony's Bread for the Poor. To illustrate the rapid growth of this devotion: in the year 1894, only four years after its beginning, more than one hundred thousand francs were received at this little shrine of Saint Anthony alone for favors granted. The alms offered as St. Anthony's Bread are very commonly used for the education of poor students for the priesthood.

3. The Chaplet or Rosary of St. Anthony

A favorite devotion is to say thirteen Our Fathers, Hail Marys, and Glorys in honor of St. An-

thony, recalling the thirteen favors enumerated in the so-called Miraculous Responsory (see page 15). This is called the Chaplet, or Crown, or Rosary of St. Anthony. No beads are needed. Any priest, however, can put the usual papal indulgences on the beads often used and carried for the purpose.

An indulgence of 300 days once a day is granted for praying the chaplet of St. Anthony. (*Preces et Pia Opera,* 3d edn., no. 530 a).

4. The Lilies of St. Anthony

In Franciscan churches lilies are sometimes blessed in a solemn and beautiful ceremony on the feast of St. Anthony, June 13. The lilies commemorate the purity and piety of St. Anthony and recall the fragrance of his great charity for the poor. As the prayer on page 46 indicates, the lilies are kept in the home or carried on one's person, as a sacramental against sickness and temptation and to bring purity, good health, and peace. The oil of the blessed lilies is similarly used.

5. The Brief or Blessing of St. Anthony

A favorite blessing used by St. Anthony against evils of all kinds, especially against temptation, was the sign of the cross while saying the words: "Behold the Cross of the Lord! Begone, ye enemy powers! The Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, has conquered. Alleluia!"

It is a devout practice to wear this blessing on one's person, or to put it up in the home, and often repeat it.

III. PRAYERS IN HONOR OF SAINT ANTHONY

1. For All Occasions

Traditional Prayer

All: O glorious Saint Anthony, * safe refuge of the afflicted and distressed, * who by a miraculous revelation * have directed all those who seek aid * to come to your altar, * with the promise * that whoever visits it for nine consecutive Tuesdays, * and there piously invokes you, * will feel the power of your intercession, * I, a poor sinner, * encouraged by this promise, * come to you O powerful Saint, * and with a firm hope I implore your aid, * your protection, * your counsel and your blessing. * Obtain for me, I beseech you, * my request in this necessity (think of your request). * But if it should be opposed to the will of God * and the welfare of my soul, * obtain for me such other graces * as shall be conducive to my salvation. * Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be to the Father.

V. Pray for us, O blessed Anthony,

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Priest: Let us Pray: Almighty and eternal God, who glorified your faithful confessor and doctor Anthony with the perpetual gift of working miracles, graciously grant that what we confidently seek through his merits, we may surely receive through his intercession. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

To the Infant Jesus in the Arms of Saint Anthony

All: O Jesus, my Savior! * who deigned to appear to Saint Anthony in the form of an infant, * I implore you, * through the love you bore to this Saint when he dwelt on earth, * and which you now bear to him in heaven, * graciously hear my prayer * and assist me in my necessities. * Who live and reign world without end. Amen.

Here a Meditation may be read, as for the corresponding Tuesday (page 17 on).

Aspirations to St. Anthony

V. Saint Anthony, our patron and our advocate,

R. Grant us what we ask of you.

V. Saint Anthony, powerful in word and work.

R. Grant us what we ask of you.

V. Saint Anthony, attentive to those who invoke you.

R. Grant us what we ask of you.

V. Saint Anthony, glory of the Church and honor of the Franciscan Order.

R. Grant us what we ask of you.

V. Saint Anthony, whom the Infant Jesus so much loved and honored.

R. Grant us what we ask of you.

The Responsory of Saint Anthony

V. If miracles thou fain wouldst see:
Lo! error, death, calamity,
The leprous stain, the demon flies,
From beds of pain the sick arise.

R. The hungry seas forego their prey,
The prisoner's cruel chains give way,
While palsied limbs, and chattels lost,
Both young and old recovered boast.

V. And perils perish; plenty's hoard
Is heaped on hunger's famished board.
Let those relate, who know it well,
Let Padua of her patron tell.

R. The hungry seas forego their prey,
The prisoner's cruel chains give way,
While palsied limbs, and chattels lost,
Both young and old recovered boast.

V. May glory to the Father be,
And to the Son eternally,
And to the Spirit, in essence one,
In persons three, be honor done.

R. The hungry seas forego their prey,
The prisoner's cruel chains give way,
While palsied limbs, and chattels lost,
Both young and old recovered boast.

V. Pray for us, Blessed Anthony.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray

O God, let the votive commemoration of your confessor and doctor Blessed Anthony be a source of joy to your Church, that she may always be fortified with spiritual assistance and may deserve to possess eternal joy. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Indulgence of 300 days once a day.

If recited each day for a month, plenary indulgence on any suitable day of that month, under the usual conditions, confession, Communion, prayers for the intention of the pope (*Preces et Pia Opera,* 3rd edn., No. 531).

Here follows the blessing with the relic of St. Anthony.

2. Meditations for a Novena

First Tuesday

St. Anthony's Fear of God

Meditation: "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole law" ((Eccl. 12, 13). Saint Anthony always had a childlike fear of God. He always spoke of God in a most reverent manner and conscientiously kept his commandments. He feared nothing but sin. His special love went out to those who had fallen into sin, and he always spoke to such men of the gravity and awful effects of sin. The sinner, he said in one of his sermons, "should consider what he has done, what he has lost, and in what he has become involved. He has incurred the death of his soul; he has lost the happiness of heaven; he has brought down on himself the punishment of hell." But there was hardly a sermon in which St. Anthony did not also speak to sinners of "the mercy of God, which is greater than anv wickedness in a sinner."

Application: Have I always lived in fear of God and avoided sin to the best of my ability? Alas! How much evil have I shamelessly committed before the ever watchful eye of God! O merciful God, with your grace I make the firm resolution henceforth to imitate Saint Anthony in his holy fear of you by carefully avoiding all deliberate sin.

Prayer

O blessed Saint Anthony, * who from your earliest youth * lived in the fear of the Lord, * and never dared to be unfaithful to him * even in the smallest things, * obtain for me,

from the infinitely just God, * whom I have so often offended, * the grace henceforth to walk with greater zeal * in fear of his judgments, * and never more to offend him by mortal sin. * Kindly take care also of that concern * which prompted me to perform this devotion in your honor, * provided it be not opposed to the will of God * and the welfare of my soul. * To prove myself more worthy of being heard * I resolve with your assistance * during the coming week * carefully to avoid all deliberate sin * and thus not offend my beloved Lord and Savior, * who with the Father and Holy Ghost, * lives and reigns, one God, * world without end. Amen.

Second Tuesday

Saint Anthony's Love of God

Meditation: "Greater love than this no one has that one lay down his life for his friends" (John 15, 13). Saint Anthony longed to die a martyr for Jesus Christ. To this end he begged and obtained permission to go to Morocco, where five Franciscans had shortly before been martyred. Divine Providence, however, had appointed another field for his great love of God: the apostolate of a teacher and preacher. If he was not allowed to give Jesus life for life, he would at least give him love for love. Untiringly and unceasingly he labored for the salvation of souls, bringing back

countless sinners and infidels and inflaming thousands of hearts with the true love of God.

Application: How cold is my love for God! Saint Anthony sacrificed all for God, and I have given so little. Saint Anthony longed to give his life for Jesus, and I, at times, have been unwilling to renounce even the occasion of sin.

Prayer

O dear Saint Anthony, * filled with the tender love of God, * I realize well what your example demands of me: * to love God with my whole heart and with all my strength. * Oh, that I may follow this teaching * and imitate you in loving God! * Obtain for me the grace * always to carry this love of God in my heart * and show it in deed. * Kindly take care also of that concern * which prompted me to perform this devotion in your honor, * provided it be not opposed to the will of God * and the welfare of my soul. * To prove myself more worthy of being heard * I resolve with your assistance * during the coming week * daily to make an act of love of God * and carefully to avoid the occasion of sin, * and thus to please the Heart of my beloved Lord and Savior, * who with the Father and Holy Ghost * lives and reigns, one God, * world without end. Amen.

Third Tuesday

St. Anthony's Confidence in God

Meditation: "Who has ever called upon God and he has despised him"? (Eccl. 2, 12.) Saint Anthony always mistrusted his own strength but placed absolute confidence in the Lord. He asked the greatest favors with complete certainty of being heard, and he encouraged others to have the greatest confidence in the goodness of God who loved them so much. "Christ's love and Christ's sufferings." he said in one of his sermons, "drive out every kind of demon, because Christ has loved us with so great a love and has offered himself for us to God the Father as our ransom and a sacrifice unto an odor of sweetness. The fragrance of this evening sacrifice expels every sort of demon. When we are tempted by the Devil, we should pray with great fervor: In the Name of Jesus of Nazareth, who once commanded the sea and the wind, I command you, depart from me, you wicked spirit!"

Application: How feeble is my confidence in God compared with that of Saint Anthony! How easily do I become disheartened when my prayers are not immediately answered! Have my prayers, perhaps, not been heard because I lacked this filial confidence in God's goodness?

Prayer

O glorious Saint Anthony, * whose confidence in God has been so richly rewarded, * obtain for me the grace of a firm assurance * that God in his mercy * will not refuse me his assistance in my needs. * Kindly take care

also of that concern * which prompted me to perform this devotion in your honor. * provided it be not opposed to the will of God * and the welfare of my soul. * To prove myself worthy of being heard * I resolve with your assistance, * during the coming week to reflect on the infinite mercy * and goodness of God toward me, a poor sinner, * thus to be filled with firm confidence in my beloved Lord and Savior, * who with the Father and Holy Ghost, * lives and reigns, one God, * world without end. Amen.

Fourth Tuesday

Saint Anthony's Love of His Neighbor

Meditation: "If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar" (I John 4, 20). Saint Anthony's love for his fellow creatures was extraordinary. It manifested itself in his continual readiness to become all to all in order to gain all for Christ. He was ever anxious to relieve the necessities and sufferings of his fellow men. This love showed itself even toward his enemies. He did good to those who hated him and prayed for those who calumniated him. Pope Pius XII pointed out that the great zeal for souls which filled the soul of St. Anthony "led him to embrace all, without discrimination of race or country: the Portuguese, Africans, Italians, French—and all in fact whom he found in need of the Catholic truth. " In one of his sermons St. Anthony said: "As the sail drives a ship, so let compassion lead you to care for the

needs of your brother. But you, O heart of stone, you feel no compassion for your neighbor, for you say: Am I my brother's keeper? Know this, however, that if you were truly your brother's keeper, you would receive a great reward."

Application: How much do I love my neighbor? Do I love him in deed or only in word? Do I pray for those who persecute or calumniate me, according to the teaching of Christ? Am I mindful of those divine words: "So shall my Heavenly Father do unto you unless you forgive your neighbor from your heart"?

Prayer

O blessed Saint Anthony, * perfect model of true charity, * who assisted your neighbor, * both friends and enemies, * in spiritual as well as in corporal necessities, * obtain for me the grace of truly loving my neighbor * and of forgiving those who offend me, * as I hope to be forgiven. * Kindly take care also of that concern * which prompted me to perform this devotion in your honor, * provided it be not opposed to the will of God * and the welfare of my soul. * To prove myself more worthy of being heard * I resolve with your assistance, * during the coming week to practice works of mercy * and truly to forgive my enemies, * thus pleasing my beloved Lord and Savior, * who with the Father and Holy Ghost, * lives

and reigns, one God, * world without end. Amen.

Fifth Tuesday

Saint Anthony's Humility

Meditation: "Unless you become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18, 3). With these words our Divine Redeemer pointed out humility as a means to salvation. Humility is the foundation of every Christian virtue. Saint Anthony possessed humility in its highest perfection. He despised the honors of the world, he despised himself, he rejoiced in being despised. Although of great learning, he humbly took upon himself the offices and duties of the least lay brother at Monte Paolo. The successes of his sermons were wonderful; the signs which lent a superhuman power to his words, were magnificent; the praise given to his work, even by the pope himself, was extraordinary; and yet he always remained the humble priest and simple Franciscan friar.

Application: How unlike am I to Saint Anthony! Am I not proud or vain of pretended prerogatives either of soul or body? Does not the smallest humiliation disturb the peace of my soul? Do I not always look for human praise instead of seeking the favor of God alone?

Prayer

O glorious Saint Anthony, * true model of humility, * who deemed yourself the least of your brethren, * graciously look down

upon me * and obtain for me the grace * to become truly meek and humble of heart. * Kindly also take care of that concern * which prompted me to perform this devotion in your honor, * provided it be not opposed to the will of God * and the welfare of my soul. * To prove myself more worthy of being heard * I resolve with your assistance, * during the coming week not to seek human praise * and patiently to bear all humiliations * in imitation of my beloved Lord and Savior, * who with the Father and Holy Ghost, * lives and reigns, one God, * world without end. Amen.

Sixth Tuesday

Saint Anthony's Purity

Meditation: "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God." Thus spoke our dear Lord in his sermon on the Mount. Saint Anthony was a lily of purity. He took special care to preserve by strict discipline the virtue of holy purity from every stain. He knew full well that purity can only be attained by self denial and prayer. Severe and numerous were the penances and mortifications he inflicted on his body, which he called "his beast of burden." He spent many hours of the night in prayer. One night, when Saint Anthony was staying with a friend, his pious host saw a brilliant ray of light under the door of the saint's room. Pushing the door slightly ajar, he beheld a Child of marvelous beauty standing on a book which lay

open upon the table, and clinging to Saint Anthony with both hands around his neck. With ineffable joy he watched the tender caress of the saint and the Christ Child, thus witnessing how Saint Anthony through his eminent purity was found worthy already on this earth to see his God.

Application: Am I endeavoring to remain clean of heart? Do I love and cherish purity of heart more than anything else on this earth? Do I use the means to acquire purity, self-denial and prayer?

Prayer

O glorious Saint Anthony, * who followed Jesus Christ by true self-denial, * and thus preserved your spotless purity and sanctity, * in all contrition I must confess * that heretofore I have been very remiss * in using the means necessary to possess this virtue. * The flesh is weak indeed, * and soon would I break the resolution I now make * if God did not continuously assist me. * Pray for me, dear Saint Anthony * that I may ever practice chastity * according to my state of life. * Fill my heart with hatred and detestation * of everything dangerous to this virtue. * Kindly take care also of that concern * which prompted me to perform this devotion in your honor. * To prove myself more worthy of being heard * I resolve with your assistance, * during the coming week to practice self-denial and prayer * and thus preserve

purity of body and soul, * the virtue so dear to my beloved Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, * who with the Father and Holy Ghost, * lives and reigns, one God, world without end. Amen.

Seventh Tuesday

Saint Anthony's Christian Fortitude

Meditation: "Do manfully and be strengthened," exhorts the Apostle St. Paul. Saint Anthony followed this admonition and became a model of Christian fortitude. He preached Jesus intrepidly, fearing neither the hostilities of men nor the rage of hell. "Against the heretics of that day," wrote Pope Pius XII, "the Albigensians, Cathari, and Patarines, so numerous at that period, and so intent on extinguishing the light of the true Faith in the hearts of the faithful, Anthony strove so mightily and so successfully that he merited to be called the 'Hammer of Heretics.'" His powerful words fell on good ground in the hearts of many of his hearers, and they were led by his preaching to renounce their false beliefs and to return to the Lord.

Application: What strength do I show in professing my faith in Christ? Am I not sometimes ashamed of my faith? Do I not at times, out of human respect fail to observe the commandments of God and the Church? Have I, perhaps neglected the practice of my faith in public through lack of Christian fortitude?

Prayer

O great Saint Anthony, * intrepid champion of Jesus Christ, * who with holy courage denounced vice and cruelty, * obtain for me the grace, * that in these days of unbelief and religious indifference, * I may be strong in my Catholic faith * and resolute in the fulfilment of my Christian duties. * Kindly take care also of that concern * which prompted me to perform this devotion in your honor, * provided it be not opposed to the will of God * and the welfare of my soul. * To prove myself more worthy of being heard * I resolve with your assistance, * during the coming week to cast aside all human respect, * and with a strong and steadfast faith * ever to confess my beloved Lord and Savior, * who with the Father and Holy Ghost, * lives and reigns, one God, * world without end. Amen.

Eighth Tuesday

Saint Anthony's Patience and Resignation

Meditation: "By your patience you will win your souls" (Luke 21, 19). Saint Anthony was a model of patience. Never lamenting or complaining over the sufferings and adversities of life, he gladly bore the cross God had laid on him. Thus, when the saint went to the general chapter at Assisi in 1221, his reception was very discouraging. On account

of his emaciated exterior, no superior wished to accept him. He remained entirely disregarded, until at last the provincial of Romagna consented and placed him in the small convent at Monte Paolo. What patience for a man who had previously been such a noted scholar and saintly religious in the Augustinian order!

Application: Do I patiently carry the cross which God has laid on me? Alas, no! I shun it as much as possible, I murmur over its heaviness. I become impatient if our Lord does not quickly take it from me. The smallest adversity excites my anger and I lose my peace of mind.

Prayer

O glorious Saint Anthony, * perfect model of patience and meekness, * who have joyfully taken upon yourself * so much unmerited contempt and trouble, * obtain for me, from the divine Heart of Jesus, * the grace henceforward * to embrace with love the Cross of Christ, * and patiently to bear all adversities of life. * Kindly take care also of that concern * which prompted me to perform this devotion in your honor, * provided it be not opposed to the will of God * and the welfare of my soul. * To prove myself more worthy of being heard * I resolve with your assistance, * during the coming week to suppress all anger and impatience, * to bear my cross with resignation * and thus follow

in the footsteps of my beloved Lord and Savior, * who with the Father and Holy Ghost, * lives and reigns, world without end. Amen.

Ninth Tuesday

Saint Anthony's Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and His Happy Death

Meditation: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Ps. 115, 15). Saint Anthony, who was baptized in a church dedicated to honor Mary, loved her all his life, preached her honor and glory in numerous sermons, and died chanting the beautiful hymn: *O Gloriosa Virginum.* At the moment of his death his countenance appeared suffused with a heavenly light; and one of his brethren asking what it meant, he said in a clear voice: "I see my God," and breathed forth his pure soul into the hands of his Maker. His brethren endeavored to keep his death secret for a time, but the children ran through the streets of Padua, crying out: "The holy priest is dead, Saint Anthony is dead."

Application: Some day I also must die. Will my death be precious in the sight of God as was that of Saint Anthony? If I wish to die well, I must live well. What would be my lot if our Lord called me today at this moment? Do I practice that efficacious means for a happy death, true devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary?

Prayer

O blessed Saint Anthony, * who already on the day of your happy death * entered into heavenly glory, * look down upon me

from your celestial throne, * and obtain for me the grace of a happy and holy death. * Kindly take care also of that concern * which prompted me to perform this devotion in your honor. * Hear me, holy wonder-worker of Padua! * Obtain for me by your powerful intercession * the favor I so fervently ask. * May the holy will of God, however, * be done in all things. * To prove myself more worthy of being heard, * I resolve with your assistance, * during the coming week to practice devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary * and hereafter faithfully to keep all the resolutions * I have made on these nine Tuesdays * for the honor and glory of my beloved Lord and Savior, * who with the Father and Holy Ghost, * lives and reigns, one God, world without end. Amen.

Closing Prayer at the End of the Novena

O blessed Saint Anthony, * my faithful intercessor, * I have now, through the grace of God and your assistance, * finished these pious exercises in your honor. * I had, indeed, the will and desire * to do all in my power for your greater honor and glory. * But you know my weakness and misery * and want of devotion. * Therefore I beseech

you to make amends for all my failings, * and to offer your merits and good works for me, * that I may find grace and hearing with God. * Obtain for me, through your merits, * the blessings of a virtuous life, * true knowledge of my God and of myself, * perfect mortification of my senses, * and a complete triumph over all temptations. * I place myself under your special protection. * Assist me to follow your example in life, * and come to my aid in death.* In that dread moment let me experience the might of your help. Amen.

3. Additional Prayers to Saint Anthony for All Occasions

Indulgenced Plea and Pledge

O wonderful Saint Anthony, * glorious on account of the fame of your miracles, * you had the happiness of receiving our Lord in your arms * in the form of a child. * Obtain for me from his bounty * the favor I ardently desire * from the depths of my heart. * You who were so compassionate toward miserable sinners, * regard not the demerits of him who is praying to you, * but God's glory to be again promoted by you, * and the salvation of my soul * bound up with the requests * I now so earnestly make. * The pledge of

my gratitude to you * be the promise of a life * in keeping with the Gospel teachings * and devoted to the relief of the poor, * whom you have loved and do love so much. * Bless my promise * and help me be faithful to it until death. Amen.

300 days once a day. Plenary Indulgence once a month for daily recitation, on the usual conditions *(Preces et Pia Opera,* 3rd edn., No. 532).

Indulgenced Prayer of Thanksgiving

O glorious wonderworker St. Anthony, * father of the poor and consoler of the afflicted, * who have so thoughtfully come to my help, * and consoled me so much: * behold me at your feet * to offer you my gratitude. * Accept it * together with the promise I renew to you, * that I will always live * in the love of Jesus and my neighbor. * Continue to be liberal to me with your protection * and obtain for me the final grace * one day to attain to heaven * to sing the divine mercies with you. Amen.

300 days once a day. Plenary Indulgence on the usual conditions if recited daily for a month. *(Preces et Pia Opera,* 3rd edn., No. 533).

Daily Prayer to St. Anthony

I salute you, great St. Anthony, and rejoice at the favors which our Lord has so liberally bestowed on you. I remind you especially of that blessed moment when the Divine Infant Jesus condescended to embrace and fondly caress you. Oh, what great happiness and joy must have filled your heart on that occasion! By this special prerogative and by the joy of your beatific vision, by which you now behold him face to face, I beg, entreat, and conjure you, O dear St. Anthony, to help me in my afflictions, troubles, and anxieties, particularly concerning *(here mention your troubles and desire.)* Oh, let your heart be moved to intercede for me, to hear and answer me. Tell our Lord of the wants and the necessities of your devoted client. One word, one sigh from your heart, which Jesus loved so much, will crown my success and fill me with joy and gratitude. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary.

V. Pray for us, St. Anthony.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let Us Pray

O God, who have deigned to choose St. Anthony as a model of all virtues for the blessing of mankind, and have converted many souls through his sermons and good example, grant by his merits and intercession that I may truly be converted, renounce all sin and sinful desires, and become more and more pleasing to you by the practice of true virtue. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Litany of Saint Anthony

(For private devotion)

Lord, have mercy on us!
Christ, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Christ, hear us!
Christ, graciously hear us!
Holy Mary, Pray for us!
Holy Father Francis
St. Anthony of Padua
St. Anthony, glory of the Order of Friars Minor
St. Anthony, martyr in desiring to die for Christ
St. Anthony, pillar of the Church
St. Anthony, worthy priest of God
St. Anthony, apostolic preacher
St. Anthony, teacher of truth
St. Anthony, hammer of heretics
St. Anthony, comforter of the afflicted
St. Anthony, helper in necessities
St. Anthony, deliverer of captives
St. Anthony, guide of the erring

St. Anthony, restorer of lost things
St. Anthony, chosen intercessor
St. Anthony, continuous worker of miracles
Be merciful unto us, Spare us, O Lord!
Be merciful unto us, Hear us, O Lord!
From all evil, Deliver us, O Lord!
From all sin
From all dangers of body and soul
From all snares of the Devil
From pestilence, famine and war
From eternal death
Through the merits of St. Anthony
Through his zeal for the conversion of sinners
Through his desire for the crown of martyrdom
Through his fatigues and labors
Through his preaching and teaching
Through his penitential tears
Through his patience and humility
Through his glorious death
Through the number of his prodigies
In the day of judgment
We sinners, We beseech you, hear us!
That you may bring us to true penance
That you may grant us patience in our trials
That you may assist us in our necessities
That you may grant our petitions
That you may kindle the fire of divine love within us
That you may give us the protection and intercession of St. Anthony
Son of God
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world. Spare us, O Lord!
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world. Graciously hear us, O Lord!

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world.
Have mercy on us, O Lord!
Christ, hear us!
Christ, graciously hear us!
V. Pray for us, St. Anthony,
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ!

Let Us Pray

Almighty and eternal God, who glorified your faithful confessor and doctor Anthony with the perpetual gift of working miracles, graciously grant that what we confidently seek through his merits, we may surely receive through his intercession. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Restoration of Things Lost or Stolen

O blessed Saint Anthony! The grace of God has made you a powerful advocate in all necessities and a patron for the restoration of things lost or stolen. To you I turn today with childlike love and heartfelt confidence. Oh, how many thousands have you miraculously aided in the recovery of lost goods! You are the counselor of the erring, the comforter of the afflicted, the healer of the sick, the resurrector of the dead, the deliverer of the captive, the refuge of the afflicted. To you do I hasten, O blessed Saint Anthony! Help me in my present affliction. I commend what I have lost to your care, in the secure hope that you will re-

store it to me if it be for the greater glory of God and the spiritual benefit of my soul, that I may praise and thank you, in time and eternity, for your glorious intercession in my behalf. Amen.

Anthem to the Blessed Tongue of St. Anthony

By St. Bonaventure

O blessed tongue which always blessed the Lord, and made others bless and praise him: it is now manifest what great merits you possessed in the sight of God.

V. Pray for us, Saint Anthony.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let Us Pray

O Almighty God, who alone perform miracles, grant, we beseech you, that, as you preserved the tongue of your holy confessor and doctor Saint Anthony incorrupt after death, we through his intercession and after his example may be worthy of praising and blessing you forever. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thirteen Salutations in Honor of Saint Anthony

(Commemorative of His Life and Virtues)

I

O glorious Saint Anthony, from early youth you always cherished a tender devotion to our Blessed Mother, and you reminded us that "our Lady's name is a strong tower, where the sinner who has recourse to her finds security and salvation"; help us to pray often with you: "Our Lady, Star of the Sea, shine upon us in our distress on the sea of life, and lead us to the safe harbor and the ineffable joys of eternity."

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.

II

O glorious Saint, you escaped from the dangers and temptations of the world by disdaining greatness, riches and comforts of life, and by joining the Canons Regular of St. Augustine: we beseech you, obtain for us detachment of the heart and true contempt for the world

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.

III

O glorious Saint, you felt a burning desire in your youthful heart to suffer martyrdom

for the Faith, and for this purpose you entered the order of the Seraphic St. Francis: we beseech you, obtain for us the spirit of penance and mortification.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.

IV

O glorious Saint, guided by sentiments of the most profound humility, you did everything in your power to hide yourself from the eyes of the world, when God suddenly made you known as an ark of science and sanctity: we beseech you, obtain for us the grace of practicing humilty and of loving a life hidden in God.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.

V

O glorious Saint, chosen by God to preach his word, by your eloquent sermons you recalled the erring and the indifferent to works of faith and charity and inspired many to enter upon a life of virtue: we beseech you, obtain for us the grace to listen willingly to divine inspirations and to hear with fruit the word of God.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.

VI

O glorious Saint, your ardent love of God merited for you the happy privilege of receiving and caressing in your arms the Di-

vine Infant Jesus: we beseech you, obtain for us the grace of receiving him in the Blessed Eucharist with love and fervent devotion.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.

VII

O glorious Saint, you assisted many poor sinners to rid themselves of the heavy burden of their sins in the sacrament of penance: we beseech you, obtain for us the grace of going to confession regularly with true contrition for our sins and a real purpose of amendment.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.

VIII

O glorious Saint, you acquired such a deep knowledge and understanding of Holy Scripture that you have been called Doctor of the Gospel: we beseech you, obtain for us the grace of frequently reading some pages of the Holy Bible in such a way that it will bring profit to our souls.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.

IX

O glorious Saint, you preached to the people of France and Italy not only by your soul-stirring sermons but even more by the example of your holy life: we beseech you, obtain for us the grace of never scandalizing others but always exercising upon them a

wholesome influence by a blameless life.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.

X

O glorious Saint, appointed by your holy Father St. Francis to teach theology to your brethren, you carried out your task in such a way that the spirit of devotion suffered no harm: we beseech you, obtain for us the grace of cultivating the spirit of prayer and performing our daily tasks in the spirit of penance and with a pure intention.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.

XI

O glorious Saint, by your prayers, your zeal, and your heavenly wisdom you converted thousands of heretics and hardened sinners: we beseech you, obtain for us the grace of true conversion and that we may give ourselves entirely to God.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.

XII

O glorious Saint, in imitation of our Divine Redeemer you spent your life for the salvation of souls: we beseech you, obtain for us the grace to become saints, to die a happy death, and to praise God forever with you and all the saints and angels in heaven.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.

XIII

O glorious Saint, God has given you the power of working miracles continually, and the favor of answering the prayers of those who invoke your assistance in misfortune, anxiety, and distress: we beseech you, obtain for us from Jesus, through Mary, his blessed Mother, what we beg of you so fervently and hopefully, if it be for the glory of God and the good of our soul.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.

Seven Petitions

To the Heavenly Father for Graces through the Intercession and the Merits of Saint Anthony

I

Our Father, who are in heaven, where your glorious confessor Saint Anthony contemplates your glory face to face: by that angelical purity on account of which he has been deemed worthy to contemplate you, purify our hearts, draw them out of the mire of sin to your paternal heart, that your name may not be dishonored, but at all times sanctified by us.

O Saint Anthony, spotless lily of purity, pray for us, that we may be made worthy of the promise of Christ: "Blessed are the pure of heart: for they shall see God" (Matt. 5,8).

II

Our Father, who are in heaven, through that faith by which Saint Anthony brought back to the true fold so many sheep erring in the desert of sin, and regained so many heretics for the kingdom of God, strengthen us in our faith, that your kingdom may come to us, and that we, as true members of your kingdom on earth, may deserve to enter your triumphant Church in heaven.

O Saint Anthony, hammer of heretics, pray for us, that we may be made worthy of the promise of Christ: "Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge him before my Father in heaven" (Matt. 10,32).

III

Our Father, who are in heaven, through the ardent zeal and holy joy which entirely filled the heart of Saint Anthony in your service, grant us the grace to persevere in the keeping of your holy commandments and in serving you alone, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

O Saint Anthony, lover of the divine law, pray for us, that we may be made worthy of the promise of Christ: "If anyone serve me, my Father will honor him" (John 12,26).

IV

Our Father, who are in heaven, through that hunger and thirst after justice with which Saint Anthony sought only you and your honor, give us an ardent desire for that which is above, for you, our good God, and give us today our daily bread.

O Saint Anthony, full of zeal for the honor of God, pray for us, that we may be made worthy of the promise of Jesus Christ: "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice: for they shall be satisfied" (Matt. 5,6).

V

Our Father, who are in heaven, through that sweet meekness with which Saint Anthony repaid all the malevolence of his adversaries with works of charity, and took joyfully upon himself all humiliations, take away from us all hatred and bitterness of heart, that you may forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those whose trespass against us.

O Saint Anthony, mirror of meekness, pray for us, that we may be made worthy of the promise of Christ: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the earth" (Matt. 5,4).

VI

Our Father, who are in heaven, through the constant exterior and interior mortification by which Saint Anthony was victorious over all the temptations of the world, the flesh and the Devil, fill our hearts with your holy strength and love, that we may never lose your grace in the hour of trial, and lead us not into temptation.

O Saint Anthony, angel in flesh, pray for us that we may be made worthy of the promise of Christ: "Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, shall find watching" (Matt. 24,46).

VII

Our Father, who are in heaven, through that intimate love with which Saint Anthony strove to deliver his fellow men from all evil of body and soul, from all spiritual and corporal afflictions, deliver us from all evil. Amen.

O Saint Anthony, father of the oppressed, pray for us, that we may be made worthy of the promise of Christ: "If you ask the Father anything in my name, he will give it to you" (John 16,23).

4. The Blessing of the Lilies

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord,
R. Who has made heaven and earth.
V. The Lord be with you,
R. And with your spirit.

Let us pray: O God, from whom every blessing takes its origin, and takes increase toward ever better development: grant, we beseech you, at our supplication, that what we are undertaking to commence for the glory of your name, may by the favor of your eternal wisdom be led to its conclusion. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

The Gospel of St. Matthew 6, 24-33, is now sung:

At that time Jesus said to his disciples: No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will stand by the one and despite the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, what you shall eat; nor yet for your body, what you shall put on. Is not the life a greater thing than the food, and the body than the clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they do not sow, or reap, or gather into barns; yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of much more value than they? But which of you by being anxious about it can add to his stature a single cubit? And as

for clothing, why are you anxious? See how the lilies of the field grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more you, O you of little faith! Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, What are we to put on? (for after all these things the Gentiles seek); for your Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his justice, and all these things shall be given you besides.

The priest continues:

V. The just man shall spring up like a lily.

R. And flourish forever before the Lord.

Let us pray: O God, the Creator and Preserver of the human race, Lover of spotless purity, Giver of spiritual grace and Bestower of eternal salvation: by your holy blessing bless these lilies which we your suppliants present to you this day as a token of gratitude in honor of your confessor Saint Anthony, and which we beg to be blessed. By the saving sign of your most holy Cross, shed on them a heavenly dew. O most clement

Lord, who have given them to man for the sweetness of their fragrance and the healing of infirmities, fill and strengthen them with such power, that in whatever sickness they may be used, or in whatever house or place they may be put, or wherever borne with devotion, through the intercession of this your same servant Anthony, they may put to flight the evil spirits, lead to holy continence, keep away all ailments, and bring peace and grace to all who serve you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Here a procession may be held with the lilies. Then:

V. Pray for us, O blessed Anthony,

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: We beseech you, O Lord, may the devout and continuous petition of your celebrated confessor and doctor Blessed Anthony be a help to your people, making us in the present life worthy of your grace, and giving us in the future life the eternal joys. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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